WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for locating data in a storage device, comprising:

2   receiving a request for data;

3   simultaneously initiating a search for the data on at least two storage areas using a

4   different search technique for each storage area, wherein each storage area includes a

5   copy of the data; and

6   terminating the search on each of the storage areas when an indication is received

7   from at least one of the storage areas that the data was located.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   identifying the at least two storage areas that include the copy of the data.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   identifying the at least two storage areas based on at least one of a location of the

3   storage areas relative to the data seek controller, data transfer rate between the storage

4   areas and the data seek controller, and type of transmission medium between the storage

5   area and the data seek controller.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the number of storage areas to be

2   searched is user specified.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two storage areas are located

2   on two separate storage devices.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the search technique for a first of the at

2   least two storage areas is a top down search and wherein the search technique for a

3   second of the at least two storage areas is a bottom up search.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one search technique is selected in

2   a round robin manner.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one search technique is user

2   specified.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   returning the data in response to the request.

1   10.   A system, comprising:

2   a first storage area coupled to a bus;

3   a second storage area;

4   circuitry operable to:

5   receive a request for data;

6   simultaneously initiate a search for the data on the first storage area and

7   the second storage area using a different search technique for each storage area, wherein

8   each storage area includes a copy of the data; and

9   terminate the search on one storage area when data is returned from the

10   other storage area.

1   11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the circuitry is operable to:

2   identify the first storage area and the second storage area that include the copy of

3   the data.

1   12.   The system of claim 11, wherein the circuitry is operable to:

2   identify the first storage area and the second storage area based on at least one of

3   a location of the storage areas relative to the circuitry, data transfer rate between the

4   storage areas and the circuitry, and type of transmission medium between the storage area

5   and the circuitry.

1   13.   The system of claim 10, wherein the number of storage areas to be

2   searched is user specified.

1   14.   The system of claim 10, wherein the first storage area and the second

2   storage area are located on two separate storage devices.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, wherein the search technique for the first storage

2   area is a top down search and wherein the search technique for the second storage area is

3   a bottom up search.

1   16.   The system of claim 10, wherein at least one search technique is selected

2   in a round robin manner.

1   17.   The system of claim 10, wherein at least one search technique is user

2   specified.

1   18.   The system of claim 10, wherein the circuitry is operable to:

2   return the data in response to the request.

1   19.   An article of manufacture for locating data in a storage device, wherein

2   the article of manufacture is operable to:

3   receive a request for data;

4   simultaneously initiate a search for the data on at least two storage areas using a

5   different search technique for each storage area, wherein each storage area includes a

6   copy of the data; and

7   terminate the search on each of the storage areas when data is returned from one

8   of the storage areas.

1   20.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the article of manufacture

2   is operable to:

3   identify the at least two storage areas that include the copy of the data.

1   21.   The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the article of manufacture

2   is operable to:

3   identify the at least two storage areas based on at least one of a location of the

4   storage areas relative to a data seek controller, data transfer rate between the storage areas

5   and the data seek controller, and type of transmission medium between the storage area

6   and the data seek controller.

1   22.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the number of storage

2   areas to be searched is user specified.

1   23.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the at least two storage

2   areas are located on two separate storage devices.

1   24.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the search technique for a

2   first of the at least two storage areas is a top down search and wherein the search

3   technique for a second of the at least two storage areas is a bottom up search.

1   25.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein at least one search

2   technique is selected in a round robin manner.

1   26.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein at least one search

2   technique is user specified.

1   27.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the article of manufacture

2   is operable to:

3   return the data in response to the request.